

*** Document 6 of 6 for YR7 ***

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CLAS ~~SECRET~~ SPOKE ISHTAR (IN PARAS SO NOTED)

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SERIAL: 2/G3/LSVCJ/R363-70

TEXT XXCC THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES THE ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNIST FORCES OPERATING IN LAOS AND IS BASED UPON INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS WHICH BECAME AVAILABLE DURING THE PERIOD 291400Z-301359Z DECEMBER 1970. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT IS PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE UPON RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH CFL ENTITIES AND GDRS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SVN ARE EXCLUDED FROM THIS REPORT. I. HIGHLIGHTS RECENT NVA COMMUNICATIONS EMANATING FROM NORTHERN LAOS HAVE BEEN HIGHLIGHTED BY INDICATIONS THAT ASSOCIATES OF BINH TRAM 217 ARE CONCERNED OVER PRO-GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS IN THE ROUTE 7 AREA. IN SOUTHERN LAOS, ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMY COMMUNICATIONS OF 30 DECEMBER CONCERNED THEMSELVES WITH ABORTIVE NVA ASSAULTS AGAINST PRO-GOVERNMENT FORCES AT MUONG PHALANE, HOUET SAI AND PS-22. II. COMMUNIST FORCES NORTHERN LAOS A. NVA FORCES COMMUNICATIONS SERVING UNIDENTIFIED ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 316TH DIVISION ON 30 DECEMBER WERE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH RECON- NAISSANCE ACTIVITY. A DISPATCH PASSED EARLY ON 30 DECEMBER CALLED UPON UNSPECIFIED NVA UNITS TO PURSUE A GROUP OF SOME 40 =ENEMY= THAT HAD BEEN SIGHTED NEAR BAN SAN KHANG (UG447555, 19-29N 103-31E). LATER, ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE REPORTED THAT NVA UNITS OPERATING NEAR BAN HAI (UG5969, 19-36N 103-39E) AND BAN NGB (UG6066, 19-35N 103-39E) HAD CONDUCTED SEARCHES NEAR KEYPOINTS OF =FRIENDS= IN THE AREA OF UG6369 (19-36N 103-41E). THIS MESSAGE ALSO CONTAINED INSTRUCTIONS FOR NVA UNITS TO RECONNOITER TWO PRO-GOVERNMENT SPECIAL BATTALIONS WHICH WERE ALLEGEDLY LOCATED NEAR UG6273 (19-38N 103-41E). ON 30 DECEMBER, AN UNIDENTIFIED BATTALION OF THE NVA 766TH INDEPENDENT REGIMENT ORDERED ITS COMPANY 7 TO DISPATCH ONE TEAM TO ASSIST =FRIENDS= (PATHET LAO) IN SETTING UP 12.7MM MACHINE GUN POSITIONS. UNIDENTIFIED SUBORDINATES OF THE NVA 1ST ENGINEER REGIMENT, BINH TRAM 217 RECEIVED 29 DECEMBER ORDERS TO ASSUME A STATE OF INCREASED COMBAT READINESS AND ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS WITH PATHET LAO UNITS. A RELATED REPORT, PASSED ON THE PRECEDING DAY, HAD DISCLOSED THAT AT LEAST ONE NVA UNIT WAS ALREADY IN COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE HEADQUARTERS OF A COMPANY OF PATHET LAO AT BAN NA THAO (UG0261, 19-32N 103-07E). ON 30 DECEMBER, COMPANY 5 OF THE 2ND BATTALION, NVA 1ST ENGINEER REGIMENT WAS LOCATED SOME EIGHT KILO- METERS SOUTHWEST OF BAN SONG (UG6791, 19-48N 103-43E). NVA PLANS TO SPOIL A PRO-GOVERNMENT BID TO =ENCROACH UPON ROUTE 7= WERE DISCUSSED IN A 28 DECEMBER MESSAGE FROM BINH TRAM 13 TO THE 4TH BATTALION OF THE NVA 2ND ENGINEER REGIMENT, BINH TRAM 217. NVA UNITS WERE ORDERED TO STEP-UP RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITY AND LAUNCH IMMEDIATE STRIKES IN ORDER TO MEET THIS THREAT. THIS MESSAGE WENT ON TO DISCLOSE THAT PRO-GOVERNMENT FORCES HAD BEEN SENT TO NAM MAT (UG5965, 19-34N 103-39E) ON 23 DECEMBER AND CONCLUDED WITH A REPORT THAT A T-28 AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN DOWNED AND SOME 11 =ENEMY= KILLED IN A RECENT CLASH. (2/G3/VCM/T5500, 5501, 5499-70) (~~SECRET SPOKE~~) III. COMMUNIST FORCES SOUTHERN LAOS A. NVA FORCES 28 DECEMBER COMMUNICATIONS SERVING ASSOCIATES OF THE NVA 968TH FRONT AND THE NVA 28TH REGIMENTN B3 FRONT REVEALED THE LOCATIONS OF NVA FORCES IN SCATTERED AREAS OF SOUTHERN LAOS AND REFLECTED NVA RECONNAISSANCE OF PRO-GOVERNMENT UNITS. REPORTEDLY, COMPANY 3, 5TH BATTALION, NVA 968TH FRONT WAS LOCATED AT =COORDINATES 56-58, = PROBABLY WD5658 (16-47N 105-32E), WHILE AN UNIDENTIFIED NVA 968TH FRONT ASSOCIATE WAS PLACED AT NA THONG (WD8436, 16-36N 105-47E); FURTHER SOUTH, B3 FRONT ASSOCIATES WERE PLACED AT XB8234 (15-13N 106-13E) AND AT XB.488 (15-15N 106-..E). A DISPATCH ORIGINATED BY COMPANY 3, 5TH BATTALION, NVA 968TH FRONT REPORTED ON A 25 DECEMBER CLASH BETWEEN COMPANY 3 AND AN UNIDENTIFIED COMPANY-SIZED PRO2 GOVERNMENT FORCE. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT UNIT HAD =RUN BACK= TO MUONG PHALANE (WD6142, 16-40N 105-34E). COMPANY 3 ADDITIONALLY REPORTED AN OUTBREAK OF MALARIA AND BERI-BERI WITHIN ITS RANKS. (~~SECRET SPOKE ISHTAR~~) ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMY (RLA) COMMUNICATIONS OF 30 DECEMBER REVEALED NVA ATTACKS AGAINST PRO-GOVERNMENT OUTPOSTS AT MUONG PHALANE, HOUET SAI (XB438934, 15-18N 106-20E) AND PS22 (XB9168, 150-05N 106-47E). ACCORDING TO THE RLA DISPATCHES, ALL OF THESE ATTACKS HAD BEEN REPULSED, AND RLA FORCES WERE IN PURSUIT OF WITHDRAWING NVA UNITS IN THE